



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
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**Michele Shalaby, Chair  
Nathaniel H. Yohalem  
Tara B. White  
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
10:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Michele Shalaby, Chair  
Nathaniel Yohalem  
Tara B. White

**Others Present:** Mari Enoch, Town Administrator  
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary  
John Furey, MBI  
Todd Corcoran, MBI  
Tom Stalker  
Richard Long

**The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 10 a.m.**

Board of Selectmen Chair, Michele Shalaby, welcomed both John Furey (Outside Construction Manager) and Todd Corcoran (Technical Program Manager) from Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

Board of Selectman, Nat Yohalem, asked if there would be greater efficiencies with more huts. Todd Corcoran replied that one hut would service a distance of 20 km but, depending on the topography, could serve up to 35 km. However, Todd also stated that more than the planned 13 huts could be necessary. Todd also recommended that Towns should be served by more than one hut, in case that one hut malfunctions. The three options are a stand-alone system, a semi-regional system (3 or 5 towns) or a regional system.

Todd described the design process and presented the Town with a "Design Decision Tree" template to be completed by the Town, based on the needs of the Town. The "Design Tree" will guide the MBI design engineer in presenting the Town with various scenarios regarding the build of the system, and will offer the best choice per town.

MBI stated that the cost model given to New Marlborough is based on a single-town, stand-alone model. There are more efficiencies to the build with a regionalized system. A regional system requires participating towns to use a common operator. The issue of who owns the system in a regional model is a political policy issue and will need to be discussed with the Director of MBI,

Erik Nakajima and other MBI members. When asked about hybrid systems, MBI's response was that while some situations necessitated a wireless component (an island in Otis), there was a concern that wireless doesn't always meet the bandwidth minimum.

MBI has written an RFP for system design and build. MBI originally set a deadline of January 15, 2016 for towns to submit comments regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP); however, that deadline has been extended to January 29, 2016. MBI then has a three month period in which to prepare an RFP. The construction cost to build the network in New Marlborough is estimated to be \$4.7 million, of which \$1.7 million will be funded by the State.

Although MBI has set a June 30, 2016 deadline for communities to financially commit to this project, both John Furey and Todd Corcoran felt that the date was becoming a "soft date" due to too many unanswered questions. A "soft date" could mean the June 30, 2016 deadline be extended if a Town was close to making the necessary decisions. Michele reiterated the Town's request that MBI take a lead in regionalization. All underserved towns will be included in Design Phase I, regardless of their place in the town commitment process.

**Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck  
Administrative Secretary